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The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"If the hon. Member gives me reference, I have no objection to ascertain the information."

* Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—"May I know whether any juniors have been promoted to the selection grade?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"In the selection grade, appointments are always filled up by selection."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—"I know that. But I want to know whether any Civil Veterinary Assistants have been promoted to the selection grade?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Those promoted should naturally be from among the Civil Veterinary Assistants."

Corporation of Madras

Proposed cutting off of water-supply to private services.

* 761 Q.—Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have perused the note submitted by the Commissioner of the Corporation of Madras to the Corporation Council on 9th August 1927 'proposing the cutting off of water-supply to all private services and erect temporarily about 2,000 stand pipes in addition in the city of Madras';

(*b*) the numbers of house connections thus proposed to be cut off and the present population of the city and the average number of persons occupying each house; how many streets there are in the city;

(*c*) whether the Government have perused the remarks of Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar, a councillor, on the note;

(*d*) whether the Commissioner has had any training in District administrative charge as Collector and if so for what period of time; and

(*e*) how many there are of Indian officers who have had experience of District administrative work as Collectors for a period of five years and over and are available for being put in charge of the city of Madras?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) Yes.

(*b*) The number of house connections is about 30,000. The population is estimated at 530,000.
Information of the average number of persons occupying each house is not available. There are 2,366 streets in the City.

(*d*) Yes; for about three months in 1921.

(*e*) There are three Indian officers with five years' district administrative experience as Collectors. The Government do not agree that lengthy experience of district administration is necessarily a qualification for the post of Commissioner in the City of Madras.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government who is not here or the hon. the Revenue Member who is here what are the qualifications necessary for the post of Commissioner of Corporation in the City of Madras? In answer to clause (*e*) of the question they

say 'The Government do not agree that lengthy experience of district administration is necessarily a qualification for the post of Commissioner in the City of Madras'."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"It would be rather difficult to answer a question which is not my concern. I can give my personal views if the hon. Member wants them."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I have no use for them.

"May I request you, Mr. President, to put off this question until the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government is here. From the answer given to clause (e) of the question, you will notice that the Government state 'the Government do not agree that lengthy experience of district administration is necessarily a qualification for the post of Commissioner in the City of Madras.' I want to know what are the qualifications of the present incumbent of the post that he should have been put over other officers who have district experience?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I wish to know from the Treasury Bench whether the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government has made any arrangements with his Colleagues to answer this question."

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"There is understanding among us that if any one of us is absent, the others may answer on his behalf."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I know, Sir, whether you approve of that arrangement? In the House of Commons if a particular Minister is absent unless he has specially delegated his Secretary or Under Secretary to answer on his behalf they should not answer. That being so, may I ask whether the hon. Minister for Development can answer this question and, if so, whether he knows the facts behind this question and whether he holds a general power of attorney or special power of attorney?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I do not think it is at all a good respect shown to the Members of this House to give a sort of general delegation to the fellow-Members of the Treasury Bench on each occasion when Members of the Treasury Bench find it inconvenient to be present in the House at the proper time. I think they should delegate any Member and the Member so delegated will have to say 'I have been asked to answer'."

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Of course I bow to your ruling, Sir. It is just possible that a Member in charge may at the last moment find himself unable to be in time in the House to answer the questions concerning his portfolio. In such a case how can he specially delegate that task to one of his Colleagues?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Why, as we are all connected by telephone, the Minister in charge can ask the President or his Colleagues to request the President to postpone the question concerning him till he comes."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"Is the hon. Minister for Development prepared to answer the supplementary questions on this question?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"As a special case and as we expect the Minister in charge very soon, I shall postpone these questions until he comes."

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Questions 761 to 770 were held over until the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government came into the House.

(For further supplementary questions on this question, please see pages 340-342 infra.)

Qs. 762 to 770.—Please see pages 342-350 infra.

Civil Justice

Abolition of imprisonment for debt.

*771 *Q.*—Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the question of the abolition of imprisonment for debt has been under the consideration of Government ;

(*b*) whether the question was originated by the Madras Government or by the Government of India ;

(*c*) in what stage that question is at present ;

(*d*) whether the High Court has been consulted in the matter ; and

(*e*) whether the Government have ascertained how this form of enforcing payment of debt has been dealt with in England and other European countries and in America and in other civilized countries and if so, whether they will be pleased to place the materials collected by them on the table ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Madras Government.

(*c*) It has been decided that the question of abolishing imprisonment for debt need not be pursued further now.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The Government have obtained some information regarding the law prevailing in England and America. Some of the materials collected have already been placed on the Editors' Table with G.O. No. 792, Home (Judicial), dated 3rd April 1918.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask, with reference to the answer to clause (*c*) of this question, why the Government has decided that the question of abolition of imprisonment for debt need not be pursued further now ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" That is a question which cannot be answered in a short statement. I must ask for notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*d*) of this question, may I ask what was the opinion of the High Court on this matter ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I must ask for notice."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" With reference to the answer given to clause (*e*), may I ask the hon. the Law Member whether in view of the fact that none of us were in this Council when this old Government Order was placed on the table the same will be placed on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Yes."